Amendments to the Claims:

     This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the
application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-21. (Canceled).

22.   (Previously Presented)   A method comprising:

     making a first determination whether a number of previous consecutive reads of a hard
drive (HD) satisfied by a non-volatile cache (NVC) of the HD is greater than or equal to a
previously determined number;

     making a second determination whether a period of time of previous consecutive HD
reads satisfied by the NVC of the HD is greater than or equal to a previously determined period
of time;

     making a third determination whether a quantity of the NVC that would be available to
service HD writes when the HD is spun down is greater than or equal to a previously determined
quantity of memory space; and

     if the third determination is true and if at least one of the first determination and the
second determination is also true, then

          spinning down the HD, and

          servicing HD data transactions with the NVC while the HD is spun down.

23.-25.   (Canceled).

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26.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 22, further comprising:

making a fourth determination whether, in another previously determined period of time, a number of transactions which were serviced by the NVC or the HD is greater than or equal to another previously determined number; and

if the fourth determination is true, then changing the power state of the HD.

27.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 26, wherein the changing the power state includes one of canceling a planned spinning down of the HD or spinning up the HD.

28.   (Previously Presented)   A machine readable storage medium having stored thereon a set of instructions which when executed cause a system to perform a method comprising:

making a first determination whether a number of previous consecutive reads of a hard drive (HD) satisfied by a non-volatile cache (NVC) of the HD is greater than or equal to a previously determined number;

making a second determination whether a period of time of previous consecutive HD reads satisfied by the NVC of the HD is greater than or equal to a previously determined period of time;

making a third determination whether a quantity of the NVC that would be available to service HD writes when the HD is spun down is greater than or equal to a previously determined quantity of memory space; and

if the third determination is true and if at least one of the first determination and the second determination is also true, then

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spinning down the HD, and

servicing HD data transactions with the NVC while the HD is spun down.

29. -31.   (Canceled).

32.   (Previously Presented)   The machine readable storage medium of claim of claim 28, the method further comprising:

making a fourth determination whether, in another previously determined period of time, a number of transactions which were serviced by the NVC or the HD is greater than or equal to another previously determined number; and

if the fourth determination is true, then changing the power state of the HD.

33.   (Previously Presented)   The machine readable storage medium of claim 32, wherein the changing the power state includes one of canceling a planned spinning down of the HD or spinning up the HD.

34.   (Previously Presented)   A system comprising:

a processor;

a non-volatile cache (NVC) coupled to the processor, the NVC to serve as a cache for a hard drive (HD) of the system; and

a machine readable storage medium having stored thereon a set of instructions which when executed cause the system to perform a method including,

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making a first determination whether a number of previous consecutive reads of a hard drive (HD) satisfied by a non-volatile cache (NVC) of the HD is greater than or equal to a previously determined number;

making a second determination whether a period of time of previous consecutive HD reads satisfied by the NVC of the HD is greater than or equal to a previously determined period of time;

making a third determination whether a quantity of the NVC that would be available to service HD writes when the HD is spun down is greater than or equal to a previously determined quantity of memory space; and

if the third determination is true and if at least one of the first determination and the second determination is also true, then

spinning down the HD, and

servicing HD data transactions with the NVC while the HD is spun down.

35.-36. (Canceled)

37.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 34, the method further including

making a fourth determination whether, in another previously determined period of time, a number of transactions which were serviced by the NVC or the HD is greater than or equal to another previously determined number, and

if the fourth determination is true, then changing the power state of the HD.

38.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 37, wherein the changing the power

state includes one of canceling a planned spinning down of the HD or spinning up the HD.